

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for purchasing goods or services by a customer from an E-Merchant, the customer having a customer computer system, the customer having a charge card, the charge card having a plurality of charge card details, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) establishing a connection between the customer computer system and the E-Merchant over a distributed public network;
  - (b) sending at least a part of the charge card details from the customer computer system to an authorizer of the charge card, bypassing the E-Merchant, in order to purchase at least one item from the E-Merchant;
  - (c) sending a transaction summary from the E-Merchant to said authorizer, bypassing the customer computer system, said transaction summary being of a transaction being between the E-Merchant and the customer, said transaction including said at least one item;
  - (d) authorizing said transaction, by said authorizer; and
  - (e) sending a confirmation of said authorizing of said transaction to the E-Merchant.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein all said steps are performed such that the E-Merchant is prevented from accessing said part of the charge card details.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending said part of the charge card details includes sending said part of the charge card details from the customer

computer system of the customer to a "Bridge" Platform, bypassing the E-Merchant, and wherein said sending said transaction summary includes sending said transaction summary from the E-Merchant to said "Bridge" Platform, bypassing the customer computer system, the method further comprising the steps of:

- (f) pairing said part of the charge card details with said transaction summary to form a combined transaction payment request package, by said "Bridge" Platform; and
- (g) sending said combined transaction payment request package to said authorizer for said authorizing, by said "Bridge" Platform.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said step of pairing is performed using a unique identification for said transaction.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said sending said part of the charge card details includes sending said part of the charge card details and said unique identification from the customer computer system to said "Bridge" Platform, bypassing the E-Merchant and wherein said sending said transaction summary includes sending said transaction summary and said unique identification from the E-Merchant to said "Bridge" Platform, bypassing the customer computer system.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said unique identification is an identification of said connection between the customer and the E-Merchant over said distributed public network.
7. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
  - (h) receiving said part of the charge card details by said "Bridge" Platform; and
  - (i) receiving said transaction summary by said "Bridge" Platform, wherein said receiving said part of the charge card details and said receiving said transaction summary are performed asynchronously.
8. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
  - (h) receiving said confirmation from said authorizer, by said "Bridge" Platform; and
  - (i) sending said confirmation to the E-Merchant, by said "Bridge" Platform.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
  - (j) sending said confirmation to the customer, by said "Bridge" Platform.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein said confirmation includes a transaction authorization reference of said authorizer.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending said part of the charge card details is performed at least partially via said distributed public network.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - (f) prior to performing said sending of said part of the charge card details, performing at least one action selected from the group consisting of encoding said part of the charge card details and encrypting said part of the charge card details.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said transaction summary includes at least one merchant detail of the E-Merchant.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
  - (f) performing a validation of the E-Merchant, by the authorizer.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - (f) performing a validation of said part of the charge card details, by the authorizer.
16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - (f) paying the E-Merchant for said transaction.
17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - (f) delivering said at least one item, by the E-Merchant.
18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- (f) reading said part of the charge card details from the charge card, by a card reader.
19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
- (g) swiping the charge card through said card reader, by the customer, thereby enabling said card reader to read said part of the charge card details.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
- (g) verifying a usage of the charge card by comparing a unique code associated with said card reader and at least a portion of the charge card details, wherein said step of sending said at least one charge card detail is contingent on said step of verifying.
21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:
- (h) storing said unique code in a non-volatile storage medium of said card reader.
22. A system for secure purchasing by customers over a distributed public network, comprising:
- (a) a plurality of customer computer systems, each of said customer computer systems being uniquely associated with one of the customers;
  - (b) a plurality of servers associated hosting a plurality of E-Merchants, said customer computer systems and said E-Merchants being configured to

establish connections over the distributed public network in order for at least one of the customers to purchase at least one item from one of said E-Merchants;

- (c) a computer system hosting a “Bridge” platform configured to pair:
  - (i) a transaction summary sent by said one E-Merchant to said “Bridge” platform, bypassing the one customer; and
  - (ii) at least part of a charge card details of a credit card of the one customer, sent by the one customer to said “Bridge” platform, bypassing said one E-Merchant, in order to form a combined transaction payment request package; and
- (d) at least one card issuer configured to authorize said combined transaction payment request package sent by said “Bridge” platform.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein each of said customer computer systems includes a card reader configured for reading card details of the customers for sending to said “Bridge” platform.